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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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Farewell to a former First Lady
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Making sense of th d

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

The Secret World of ELEPHANTS

Sneak a peek at the new exhibit at a major US museum p20

The March for Israel in the US capital

DID YOU KNOW?
The National Mall in Washington, DC, where many historic protests have taken place, is run by the National Park Service.

Promoting peace

For 10 days, the founders of a group called Standing Together visited campuses, community centers, and libraries across the US to promote understanding of both sides in the war. Sally Abed, a Palestinian citizen of Israel, and Alon-Lee Green, an Israeli Jew, shown above, said Israelis and Palestinians must work together to find peace.

Protests in US focus on Middle East

Amid calls for a ceasefire in the war between Hamas and Israel, people continue to demonstrate across the US. Some are protesting in support of Israel, others are supporting Palestinians, and many are calling for peace.

What is happening?

Since the war between Israel and Hamas started on October 7, thousands of people in the US have taken to the streets to express their opinions. People who support Israel say its government is right to attack Gaza, where Hamas is based, because Hamas started the war by attacking Israel and has stated that its goal is to eliminate Israel. There are also many protesters who say Israel has gone too far in its response and are calling for the nation to stand down. They believe that in its attempt to shut down Hamas, Israel is punishing Gazans who don't support the terrorist group. Still other demonstrators want a full ceasefire (stop to the fighting) to protect innocent people and allow leaders to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. Many people are also protesting against a rise in antisemitism (discrimination against Jewish people) and Islamophobia (discrimination against Muslim people) around the world.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield

What was the largest US protest so far?

On November 14, tens of thousands of people gathered for the March for Israel in Washington, DC, to speak out for Israel and Jewish people and against antisemitism. The crowd packed the National Mall, a park where many historic protests have taken place. Protesters called for Hamas to free more than 200 hostages it captured in Israel on October 7. Elected officials, actors, and activists spoke about the need to support Israel and its struggle to secure a safe future.

What other marches have happened?

Many pro-Palestinian demonstrations have taken place. On November 16, protesters blocked the Bay Bridge in San Francisco, California, and the Boston University bridge in Massachusetts for several hours. They called for a ceasefire and an end to US support of the Israeli military. In New York City, protesters waving Palestinian flags and carrying signs saying "Ceasefire now!" blocked Grand Central Terminal and marched to Times Square. Protests for both sides are also happening on college campuses.

What are other groups saying?

On November 15, the Security Council for the United Nations (an organization of 193 countries working together) approved a resolution calling for "humanitarian pauses and corridors" to allow food, fuel, and other aid into Gaza. The US, a UN member and a strong ally of Israel, declined to vote on the measure but also did not block its passage. "This all comes down to one clear, urgent goal: to save innocent lives," said Linda Thomas-Greenfield, the US representative to the UN. Meanwhile, 40 members of Congress (branch of US government that makes laws) have called for a ceasefire. Polls show that Americans are split over Israel's response. In one poll, 38% of people said Israel has gone too far in its reaction to the Hamas attack, while an equal number said the reaction has been "about right."

What will happen next?

People will be allowed to protest peacefully across the US, and officials said they will fight discrimination. On November 14, the White House announced steps "to address the alarming rise of reported antisemitic and Islamophobic events" on school and college campuses. The program includes resources to help teachers, students, parents, and community members prevent such acts. The government will also meet with school and college leaders as well as educators, students, and staff who are Jewish, Muslim, Arab, and Palestinian to discuss ways to keep students safe.

Biden meets with China's president

President Joe Biden and Chinese president Xi Jinping met in California on November 15 for their first in-person talk in a year. They spoke about strengthening the complex relationship between their nations, which are two of the most powerful in the world and often disagree on global issues.

The meeting was held at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, an annual forum to promote trade and economic growth among 21 member countries, including the US, China, Japan, and Canada. Biden and Xi discussed several key issues, including Xi's request for the US to end economic sanctions (financial punishments) against China. They also agreed to reinstate communications between their militaries, and Biden asked Xi to help ease global tensions amid ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Xi also hinted that China could send new giant pandas to the US, following the recent relocation of three giant pandas from the Smithsonian's National Zoo to China. Xi called the animals "envoys of friendship" between the nations.

Joe Biden (left) and Xi Jinping

Rosalynn Carter

STAR STUDENT
Rosalynn Carter finished first in her class at Plains High School and attended Georgia Southwestern College.

Former First Lady remembered

Rosalynn Carter, a former First Lady of the US, died on November 19 at age 96. She was known as a champion of the principles she believed in and a political partner to her husband, Jimmy Carter, age 99, who served as President from 1977 to 1981.

Rosalynn Carter was born in 1927 in the small town of Plains, Georgia. In 1946, she married Jimmy, who also grew up in Plains. The Carters had four children and were married for 77 years, the longest of any Presidential couple in US history. She campaigned for her husband and was his "closest adviser," he said, while he was state senator and governor of Georgia and the 39th President.

Rosalynn Carter helped transform the traditional role of First Lady into an active one. She worked in a White House office instead of the family's residence, sat in on Cabinet meetings, and traveled abroad to meet heads of state. She was a passionate advocate for ensuring Americans' access to mental health care, among other causes.

After leaving the White House, the couple moved back to Plains and co-founded the Carter Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting peace and health worldwide. They also built many homes with Habitat for Humanity. In 1999, they were awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Thousands of people paid tribute to Rosalynn Carter after her death, with many saying she will be remembered for her life lived with purpose. In his tribute, her husband said, "Rosalynn was my equal partner in everything I ever accomplished." Her funeral is set for November 29 in Georgia.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

REWRITING A RECORD

A man in Iowa set a new world record for the largest collection of pencils, with 69,255. Aaron Bartholmey has been collecting them for more than 30 years, since he was in first grade. "It's pretty unbelievable," he said of the new record.

One of the ornaments

ARTISTIC ANIMALS

More than 2,000 origami elephants and other animals adorn the holiday tree at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Volunteers from around the world made the folded paper animals, including a garland of 400 elephants that circles the 13-foot-tall tree.

A WONDERFUL MISTAKE

A rare stamp that's famous for its imperfection sold for $2 million at auction. Known as the Inverted Jenny, it features a plane called the Curtiss JN (which was referred to as Jenny). In 1918, the US Postal Service accidentally printed a batch of the stamps with the plane upside down. Only 100 were released to the public, and very few are left. The one that recently sold was in top condition. "It doesn't get any better than this," said the man who bought it.

An Inverted Jenny stamp

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (2); NINTENDO; UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT; ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY; ON THIS PAGE: THE CARTER CENTER; GETTY IMAGES (3); D. FINNIN/ ©AMNH; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2); REDUX PICTURES

FULL COURT
The Supreme Court began in 1789 with six justices. Since 1869, there have been nine.

The justices of the current Supreme Court

Supreme Court calendar

The US Supreme Court follows a calendar similar to a school year. After opening its "term" on the first Monday of October, the nine justices listen to arguments in about 80 cases through April. They then finish writing their decisions and release most of them in June, which has come to be known as "decision season."

Supreme Court issues ethics code

The US Supreme Court (America's most powerful court of law) announced that it has voluntarily created and adopted an official code of conduct. The announcement came after news reports published earlier this year said some justices may have taken part in unethical behavior.

What happened?

An ethics code is a set of principles designed to help employees do their jobs with honesty and integrity. Judges in lower courts follow ethics rules, but the Supreme court didn't have rules of its own. The new 14-page code of conduct, based on the rules lower court judges follow, states that the justices must not allow "family, social, political, financial, or other relationships" to influence their decisions. It also states that they should recuse (excuse) themselves from a court case if they have a personal interest in the outcome. The statement releasing the code of conduct was signed by all nine justices.

Why is this significant?

Justices have been under scrutiny for accepting gifts and other benefits that may have been unethical. For example, Justice Clarence Thomas did not report receiving free travel on a private jet and yacht worth more than $500,000. The person who provided the travel donates heavily to the Republican party, which is involved in cases that go before the court. Justice Samuel Alito did not report a free trip of more than $200,000 provided to him by someone who was later involved in cases the Supreme Court ruled on.

What was the reaction?

Some members of Congress said the ethics code represents progress. Other lawmakers and legal experts said they were disappointed because the code doesn't clarify how the rules will be enforced. "Unless there is a mechanism to investigate possible violations," the code is useless, said Sheldon Whitehouse, a Democratic US senator from Rhode Island.

What will happen next?

The Supreme Court's code of conduct went into effect immediately. Congress may say it wants more oversight of the benefits justices receive.

WORD OF THE WEEK

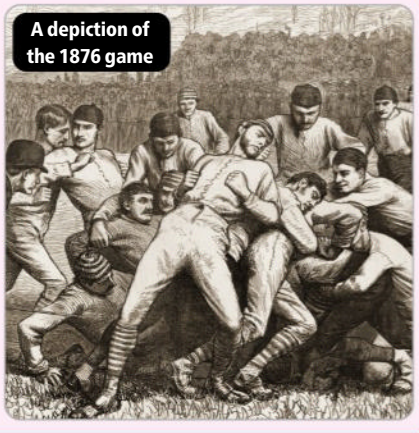
LLAMA

The llama is a mammal from South America and is related to the camel. Its name, with a double "l," may look unusual but was borrowed into English from Spanish and ultimately goes back to a word from Quechua, a family of languages

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

November 30, 1876
First Thanksgiving football game held

On November 30, 1876, the first Thanksgiving Day college football game was played between Yale University and Princeton University in front of nearly 1,000 fans in New Jersey. Yale won, 2–0, and the game began a tradition of football being played on the holiday. Last Thanksgiving, a total of 138 million viewers watched games played in the National Football League.


A depiction of the 1876 game

The US Capitol, where Congress meets

Government avoids shutdown

Lawmakers in Congress (branch of government that makes laws) reached a temporary budget deal to keep government agencies operating through the rest of the year, and President Joe Biden signed the bill into law on November 16. Congress now has until January 19 to set the annual budget for some federal agencies and February 2 for others. If lawmakers don't agree on an annual budget by those dates, a shutdown could occur.

Cost of Thanksgiving meal drops

Serving a Thanksgiving meal was set to cost 4.5% less this year than in 2022, the American Farm Bureau Federation reported. A dinner for 10 people could total $61.17, which is just over $6 per person. One reason for the savings is that the price of turkey has decreased by 5.6% since last year. However, the average price for the holiday meal is still 25% higher than it was four years ago.

The winners

Four toys added to Hall of Fame

Baseball cards, Cabbage Patch Kids, the Fisher-Price Corn Popper, and NERF toys were inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, New York, for representing "a great blend" of play. Baseball cards were cited for inspiring collecting, Cabbage Kids for encouraging imaginary play, the Corn Popper for being a great toddler activity, and NERF toys for bringing adults and kids together.

GETTY IMAGES (8); THE STRONG MUSEUM OF PLAY; ON LEFT PAGE: UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT; GETTY IMAGES (3)

DID YOU KNOW?
The term "Grammy" comes from gramophone, which is an old-fashioned type of record player.

Grammy nominees announced

The nominees for the 2024 Grammy Awards, a top honor in the music industry, were announced on November 10. Contemporary R&B singer-songwriter SZA earned the most nominations, with nine. Three more artists—singer-songwriter Phoebe Bridgers, pop and R&B musician Victoria Monét, and mixing engineer Serban Ghenea—received seven nominations each. In total, nominations for 94 different awards were announced.

Several female artists were nominated for both Record of the Year and Album of the Year, two of the top awards. SZA, Bridgers for her work with the musical group Boygenius, Miley Cyrus, Olivia Rodrigo, and Taylor Swift were nominated for both.

Monét, who was nominated for Record of the Year and Best New Artist, is also the mother of the youngest Grammy nominee in history. Her daughter Hazel, age 2, was nominated for being a featured artist in her song "Hollywood."

The Grammy award trophy

The hit movie *Barbie* racked up 11 Grammy nominations in seven categories. It was nominated for the Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media award, while the film's original score and its composers, Mark Ronson and Andrew Wyatt, were nominated as well. The movie's song "What Was I Made For?" by Billie Eilish was nominated for Record of the Year.

Other notable nominees this year include previous Album of the Year winner Jon Batiste, who was nominated for Album of the Year and Record of the Year. Folk songwriter Noah Kahan was among the nominees for Best New Artist. Nominations in three new Grammy categories—Best African Music Performance, Best Alternative Jazz Album, and Best Pop Dance Recording—were also named.

The Grammy winners will be announced on February 4 in a ceremony that will be aired live from Los Angeles, California.

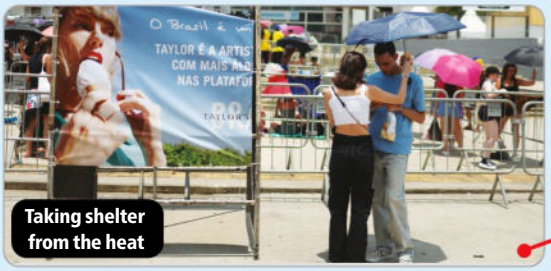
THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Flight forced to return to airport after horse gets loose on plane" *KIRO7*

The new sculptures

Grenada
Sculptures installed under the sea

Jason deCaires Taylor, a UK artist, has installed a new series of life-size sculptures under the sea near the Caribbean island of Grenada. Taylor based his sculptures on people from the community and decorated them with local colors, including yellow from the spice turmeric. Taylor said he was inspired by the vibrant annual carnival called Spicemas. The exhibit is expected to serve as an "artificial reef" to support marine life.


Taking shelter from the heat

Brazil
Taylor Swift concert postponed

Taylor Swift postponed a concert in Rio de Janeiro on November 18 due to safety concerns related to a heat wave. On November 19, the temperature in the city hit a record high of 112.6° F. The extreme heat was affecting more than 100 million people in Brazil, and red weather alerts were issued across 3,000 towns and cities. Experts say the temperatures are caused partly by climate change.

Javier Milei

Argentina
New president elected

Javier Milei, 53, won Argentina's presidential election on November 19. He received nearly 56% of the vote to defeat his opponent, Sergio Massa. Among Milei's challenges after he takes office on December 10 will be controlling the nation's high inflation and poverty rates. Milei has been criticized for some of his views, such as denying humans' role in climate change.

United Kingdom
Former leader's comeback

David Cameron, a former prime minister of the United Kingdom, has returned to politics as foreign secretary. Cameron, who resigned in 2016 after six years as prime minister, said he was "delighted" to accept the offer from the current prime minister, Rishi Sunak. "I believe in public service," he said. National opinion was divided on his return.

David Cameron

Kenya
Families displaced

More than 20,000 families have had to leave their homes across Mombasa, Kilifi, Kwale, and Tana River due to flooding. Train lines carrying cargo to and from Mombasa were also affected following floods and a landslide. The floods happened after heavy rains caused by a weather pattern known as El Niño. During El Niño, water in the eastern Pacific Ocean is unusually warm, which then affects local weather.

Residents try to cross the Tana River.

GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY (2); JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR; REUTERS (2); SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

Around the world

Camembert cheese

France
Change for cheese proposed

The wooden boxes that contain camembert, a type of French cheese, could be banned. The European Union (a group of 27 nations) wants to replace wooden packaging, which is hard to recycle, with recyclable plastic. There are concerns, however, that the plastic packaging could harm the cheese and actually be worse for the environment.

Luleå

Luleå, Sweden
Locals encouraged to be friendlier

A city in Sweden is running a campaign to encourage people to say hello to one another more often. Luleå, a northern city that gets three hours of sunlight per day in winter, is home to 80,000 residents who are known for being quiet and not very sociable. The "Säg hej" ("Say hello") campaign aims to lift people's moods, help those who feel lonely, and create a friendlier city.

Aleksandra Skochilenko

St. Petersburg, Russia
Artist sent to prison for protesting war

An artist has been sentenced to seven years in prison after she was accused of spreading false information about the Russian army. Last year, Aleksandra Skochilenko, age 33, replaced five price tags in a supermarket with pieces of paper bearing comments that criticized President Vladimir Putin's actions in Ukraine. Skochilenko is among hundreds of Russians to face criminal charges for their opposition to the war.

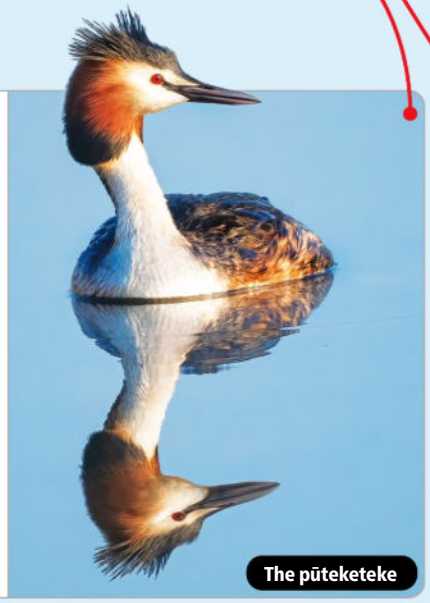
Owners pray for their pets.

Zama, Japan
Dogs blessed in special ceremony

A ceremony that had once been reserved for parents to pray for their children's health and happiness has become popular for pets in Japan, according to Reuters news agency. As part of the Shichi-Go-San ritual, owners traveled to the Zama Shrine on November 14 with their dogs. The pets, dressed in kimonos (a traditional piece of Japanese clothing), were given blessings.

New Zealand
Bird of the century

The pūteketeke was crowned New Zealand's Bird of the Century on November 15. The vote was held to celebrate 100 years of Forest and Bird, an environmental group, and to raise awareness of threatened bird species. The winner is also known as the "puking" bird because it makes itself sick to get rid of bugs. The pūteketeke gained popularity after the comedian John Oliver launched a global campaign to support it.


The pūteketeke

Is it OK to recline your seat on a plane?

Some say they have the right to lean back, but others say it's rude to other passengers.

What you need to know

- **In recent years, airlines have added more seats to many planes, reducing the amount of space for each seat.**
- **There's now an average of 28–31 inches of space between a row of seats and the one in front of it, down from 34–35 inches in the early 2000s.**
- **Seats have also gone from 18.5 inches wide to about 17 inches wide.**
- **The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA, the US agency that oversees air travel) is required to mandate seat size only if it presents a safety issue.**

DID YOU KNOW?
The 1919 Lawson airliner, the world's first passenger airplane, had wicker chairs for seats.

In 2022, airlines in the US carried 853 million passengers, a 30% increase from 2021. But even as more people are flying, space on planes has gotten much tighter—and flight crews have reported more arguments between passengers about reclining seats. People are fairly evenly split on the issue: A recent international poll found that 53% of flyers think it's unacceptable to recline your seat. Some people say it's not just about whether it's OK to recline—it also matters when and how you do it. Meanwhile, others feel there's never a right time. What do you think? Is it OK to recline your seat on a plane?

Yes—comfort comes first

It's simple: If you paid for a seat that reclines, you have the right to recline it. Sitting upright for an entire flight isn't comfortable, and you can recline a little without making the person behind you uncomfortable. Anyway, it's the airline's fault for trying to squeeze in more seats to make more money and basically selling the space between rows to two passengers at the same time. Besides, if a passenger in front of you reclines, you have even less space—so you have no choice but to do the same. If passengers want to avoid this problem, they can pick a row with no reclining seats in front of them.

No—let's all be considerate

There's no getting around the fact that airlines have packed more seats into planes, which means passengers have to be more considerate of others. Some airlines are even installing "pre-reclined" seats that can't be adjusted, which means they agree that reclining is a problem. When passengers argue about reclining seats, it makes things harder for flight crews. That's unfair to them and prevents them from doing their jobs. Reclining is OK on some overnight flights when people need to sleep. But on shorter flights, people are using the space in front of them to work or eat. A seat leaning in their lap makes that impossible.

YES Three reasons why it is OK to recline your seat on a plane

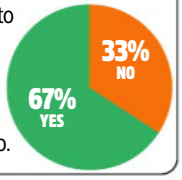
1. **Passengers pay for seats that recline, so they should be able to use that feature.**
2. **Sitting up straight for an entire flight is painful, and people can recline without bothering the person behind them.**
3. **If passengers are concerned about not having enough space, they can pick a row with no reclining seats in front of them.**

NO Three reasons why it is not OK to recline your seat on a plane

1. **More seats on airplanes means less space for everyone. The trip can be smoother if we're kind to our fellow travelers.**
2. **Reclining seats are unfair to the flight crews who have to settle arguments.**
3. **Passengers who recline their seats are being rude to the people behind them, who have less space and can't work or eat.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if we should get rid of timed tests. Just over two thirds of you said yes, it's time to get rid of the ticking clock, while a third of you said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think it is OK to recline your seat on a plane or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

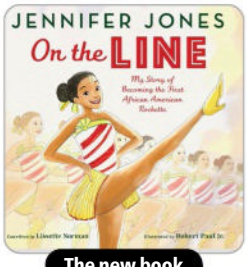
SHUTTERSTOCK

The life of a dancer

In her new book, Jennifer Jones shares her journey into dance history.

In 1987, Jennifer Jones became the first Black dancer to join the Rockettes, a renowned dance company best known for its *Radio City Christmas Spectacular*. With her new picture book, *On the Line: My Story of Becoming the First African American Rockette*, she hopes to inspire a new generation of dancers.

Jones, age 56, grew up in Randolph, New Jersey. When her love for dance began in elementary school, she did not see many performers who looked like her. A pivotal moment in her life came when her parents took her to New York City to see the Broadway musical *The Wiz*, which had an all-Black cast. "My parents showed me that we can be Black and dance on a grand stage," Jones told *The Week Junior*.



The new book

Jones first auditioned for the Rockettes in 1987 and was hired, making her debut with the company in the 1988 Super Bowl halftime show. Jones said it was "a huge honor" and also "an incredible feeling" to make history with the Rockettes—which had not employed a dancer of color in its 62-year history—and to know she was helping to open doors for other Black performers.

On the Line follows Jones' journey from childhood dancer to trailblazing advocate for equal representation in the performing arts. "What will my story be?" is the question she hopes readers will ask themselves after they finish her book. "I want to inspire children to follow their dreams," she said, "and really go after what they want in life."

Jennifer Jones

WOW! Since 1933, more than 69 million people have attended the Rockettes' Radio City Christmas Spectacular in New York City.

An animal rescuer

Lizzi Larbalestier of Cornwall, England, has received global recognition for her efforts to rescue seal pups and other marine life. She was named the 2023 winner of the Animal Action Award from the International Fund for Animal Welfare. As a volunteer with the British Divers Marine Life Rescue, she cared for more than 100 injured seal pups in her home while a new hospital for seal pups was built. The award is about taking action, Larbalestier said, "and I am certainly an activist when it comes to supporting our animals."

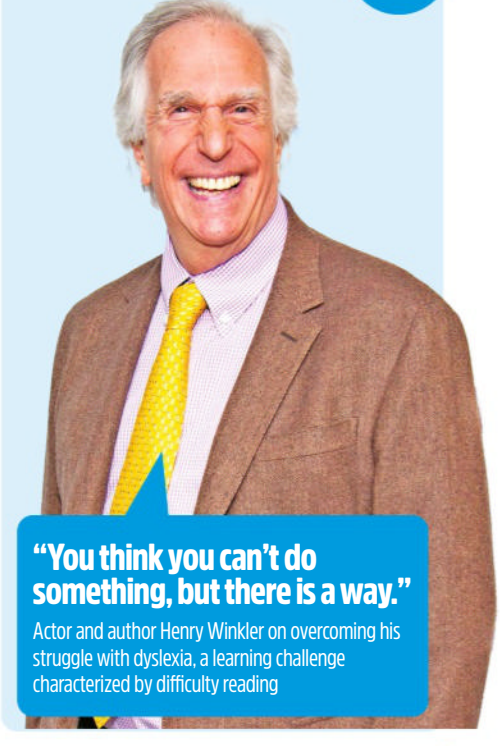
Lizzi Larbalestier

Craig Counsell

Manager's major deal

The Chicago Cubs, a Major League Baseball (MLB) team, has named Craig Counsell as its new manager, making him responsible for leading the team. With a five-year contract worth about $40 million, he is believed to be the highest-paid manager in MLB history. Counsell, age 53, was an infielder in the MLB for16 seasons and won two World Series titles, first with the Florida Marlins and then with the Arizona Diamondbacks. Prior to becoming manager of the Cubs, he held the same position with the Milwaukee Brewers, leading the team to five of its nine postseason appearances.

OVERHEARD



"You think you can't do something, but there is a way."

Actor and author Henry Winkler on overcoming his struggle with dyslexia, a learning challenge characterized by difficulty reading

SHUTTERSTOCK; OLIVER HARRIS; GETTY IMAGES (2)

HELPFUL DISGUISE
Young swallowtail caterpillars look like bird droppings, making them unattractive to predators.

A young Wallace's flying frog

The first redheads

Frogs may hold the title of the world's first redheads. Scientists have discovered the earliest known record of phaeomelanin, the same pigment that makes people's hair red, in frog fossils from 10 million years ago. The discovery will help scientists understand how some animals developed red colors over time.

A red frog

A frog's secret for survival

Over time, many species of animals have developed inventive ways of avoiding predators. For example, decorator crabs conceal themselves in coral and Arctic hares grow white fur in winter to blend in with their snowy habitat. A new study has revealed that Wallace's flying frogs have a particularly off-putting way of repelling attackers. These small frogs from Southeast Asia have adapted to look like poop.

When they are young, Wallace's flying frogs have reddish-brown bodies covered in small white dots. The pattern resembles that of animal droppings. Experts think that instead of hiding from their predators, these frogs simply look like something no other animal wants to eat.

An adult Wallace's flying frog

A group of researchers tested their theory at Schoenbrunn Zoo in Vienna, Austria. They created wax models of frogs in different colors and placed them around the zoo's rainforest house. Birds inside the house often use color vision to detect frogs as prey.

The team found that birds were more likely to attack frog models made from red wax than green versions. When the red models had white spots, however, the attacks dropped by half.

"The young frogs probably count on the fact that they will be seen but considered something inedible," said Susanne Stueckler, a researcher from the University of Vienna. The frogs don't keep up their unusual appearance forever, though. The white spots disappear after about a year, and as the frogs grow into adults they turn green and yellow instead.

Luckily, if a predator decides to attack, these frogs, also known as parachute frogs, have another way to avoid being caught. When they feel threatened and need to move quickly, they leap between branches and stretch out their webbed feet. Thin skin between their toes and skin flaps on their sides catch the air to help them glide. They can travel more than 50 feet this way, which helps them make a speedy getaway.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, Florida

Timucuan has one of the last unspoiled wetlands on the Atlantic Coast of the US. Along with marshes, the nature preserve includes sand dunes, oak forests, and pine flatwoods (grasslands filled with pine trees). A variety of animals, including manatees and armadillos, live in the preserve. Visitors can also view artifacts dating back 6,000 years and learn about the cultures of the Indigenous peoples (first known inhabitants) of the area. Hikers, cyclists, and kayakers can make their way through several national, state, and city parks connected by the Timucuan Trail.

A nine-banded armadillo

FUN FACT Most of the llamas in the US today are descended from two herds.

Llamas are becoming popular in the US.

Where llamas take the prize

A South American animal took the spotlight at the biggest agricultural fair in the northeastern US. At this year's Eastern States Exposition, also known as the Big E, 180 llamas participated in a three-day competition. Experts say interest in the animals has been on the rise.

Llamas are relatives of camels and are native to the Andes Mountains, where they have helped people haul goods across steep mountainsides for hundreds of years. People first brought llamas to the US in the 19th century. Here, the animals are mainly kept as pets. Others appear at special events or act as guards to protect other farm animals from predators.

At the Big E expo, owners show off their llamas' straight backs, long necks, ability to navigate past obstacles, and friendliness to strangers. Recently, the number of llamas entered in the show has grown by 10% each year. "A lot of our exhibitors and participants take better care of their animals than they do of themselves," agriculture director Elena Hovagimian told *The New York Times*.

Animal of the week: Barbary macaque

A Barbary macaque has been born at Wild Ireland Park in Donegal, Ireland. Barbary macaques are endangered, and the park said the monkey's birth was "of international importance in the fight against extinction."

- **LIFE SPAN:** 22 years
- **HABITAT:** North Africa and Gibraltar in Europe
- **SIZE:** About 2 feet long, and up to 35 pounds
- **DIET:** Insects, frogs, fruit, leaves, and roots
- **FUN FACT:** They store food in cheek pouches that are nearly as big as their stomachs.

Good week / Bad week

Brown bears

A conservation group in Montana has bought more than 1,500 acres of land near Yellowstone National Park to stop a company from building a new gold mine. The purchase will protect brown bears and other wildlife in the area.

Snow crabs

Scientists have figured out that warming oceans are the reason why billions of snow crabs in Alaska have gone missing. The crabs most likely could not find enough food during a two-year heat wave in the Bering Sea, causing many to starve.

Ask an expert

"How many types of penguins are there, and how many of them are endangered?" Charlotte, 12, Nevada

Brendan Dugan
Senior penguin trainer,
New England Aquarium

Of the 18 species of penguins, five are considered endangered and four more are vulnerable. Reasons include overfishing and climate change, which is causing currents to shift. This makes it harder for penguins to find food. Remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle if you want to help!

A king penguin

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about the New England Aquarium at neaq.org.

GETTY IMAGES (5); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4); SAMANTHA CLOER

An adventure story

This book has captivated readers around the world for decades.

For 80 years, *The Little Prince*, with its themes of love and friendship, has been one of the most popular and widely translated books worldwide. A true adventure story inspired the beloved tale.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

A passion for flying

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was born in 1900 in Lyon, France. In 1912, he took his first trip in an airplane and decided he wanted to be a pilot one day. He fulfilled his dream, becoming an airmail pilot, and joined the French Air Force. In 1935, Saint-Exupéry attempted to break an airspeed record on a flight from Paris, France, to Saigon, in present-day Vietnam. Nearly 20 hours into the flight, he crashed in the Sahara desert. After four days, he was rescued. Following Germany's invasion of France during World War II (1939–1945), Saint-Exupéry fled to New York City. While there, he revisited his memories from the crash in the desert and began to write a story.

French and English editions of the book

A book is born

The Little Prince was published in 1943, in both French (*Le Petit Prince*) and English. It tells the story of an aviator who crashes his plane in the desert and meets a young person from outer space. The aviator calls him "the little prince." The prince shares stories of the worlds he visits and the characters he meets, including a king, a talking fox, and a snake that speaks in riddles. The prince travels the universe collecting wisdom as he asks questions about life, loneliness, and friendship. Saint-Exupéry illustrated the story himself with watercolor drawings. At first, critics weren't sure if *The Little Prince* was for children or adults, and it was not immediately popular. It became a best seller worldwide, however, and has been translated into about 500 languages and dialects.

BEST SELLER
More than 140 million copies of *The Little Prince* have been sold worldwide.

DID YOU KNOW?
Antoine de Saint-Exupéry was awarded the French Legion of Honor, France's highest award, in recognition of his military service.

***The Little Prince* was made into an animated film in 2015.**

Symbols in the story

The rose

Although vain and at times unkind, the rose represents beauty and love and the importance of looking past outward appearances.

The fox

The fox represents wisdom, as he helps the Little Prince learn lessons about trust and friendship. The fox teaches him the importance of taking the time to form meaningful relationships with others.

ALAMY (3); ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPÉRY (6); GETTY IMAGES

for the heart

PRINCE IN SPACE
French astronaut Philippe Perrin brought a copy of *The Little Prince* on a space flight.

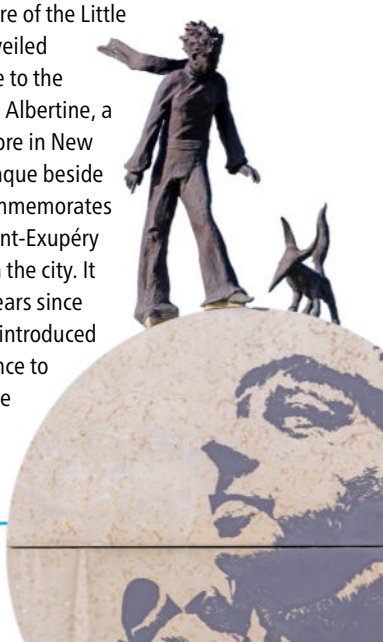
The 1974 movie

Beyond the book

Saint-Exupéry wrote six books over his lifetime, although *The Little Prince* was his most famous. The book has been adapted in various versions for the screen and stage. In 1974, a movie musical debuted in theaters. From 2010 through 2017, an animated television series aired in France. A stage adaptation of *The Little Prince* opened on Broadway in 2022. The same year, an exhibition at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs in Paris, called *An Encounter with the Petit Prince*, celebrated Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's life as a writer, aviator, and poet. The Morgan Library and Museum in New York City holds most of the original manuscript of *The Little Prince*, with many of Saint-Exupéry's illustrations.

The legacy of *The Little Prince*

The Little Prince contains timeless themes adults and children relate to today, including taking care of the planet, not judging people by their words but by their actions, and building relationships with others. One of the most famous lines in the book is shared by the fox, who says, "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eyes." In September 2023, a bronze sculpture of the Little Prince was unveiled at the entrance to the garden at Villa Albertine, a French bookstore in New York City. A plaque beside the project commemorates Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and his time in the city. It has been 80 years since Saint-Exupéry introduced his curious prince to readers, but the magic of *The Little Prince* lives on.



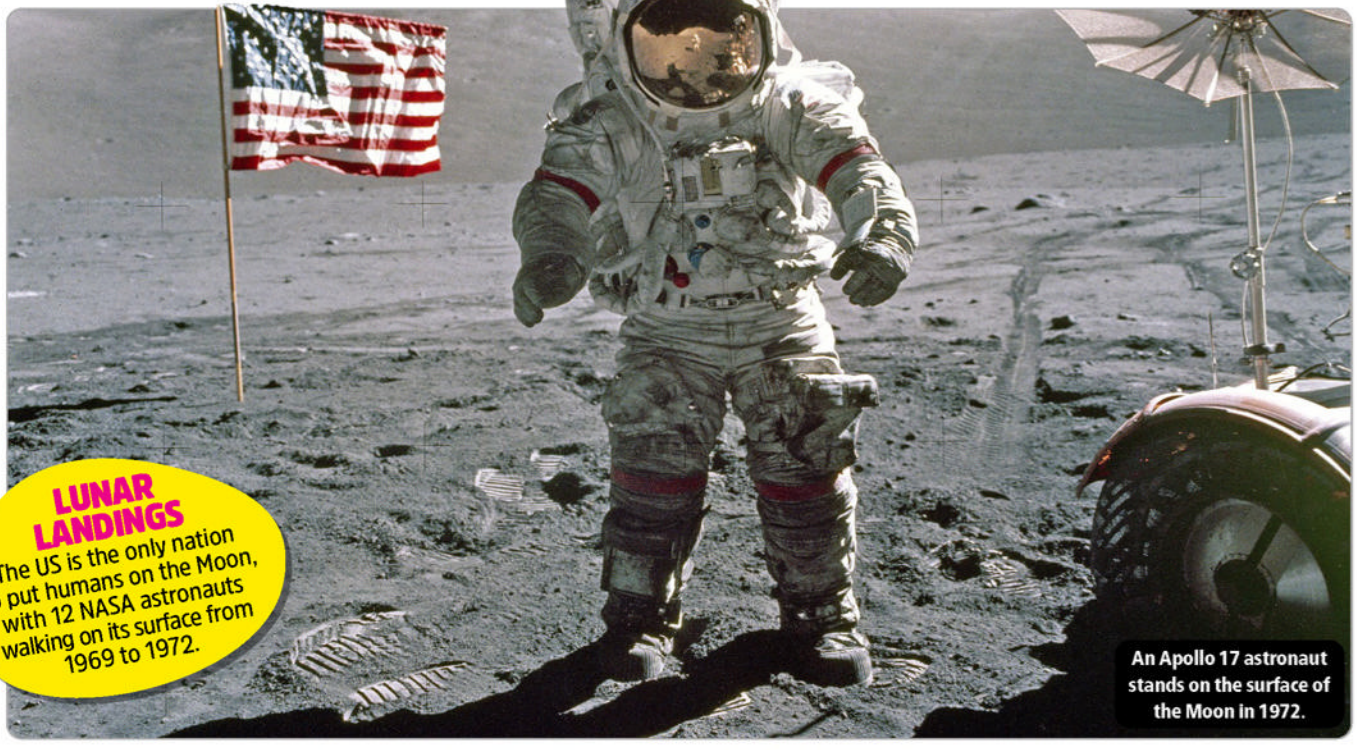
A sculpture in France features the prince, fox, and author.

The stars

To the Little Prince, the stars symbolize aspirations and possibilities. They serve as a reminder to readers to hold on to one's dreams and keep their sense of wonder about life.

The baobab trees

The roots of these giant trees threaten to split the Little Prince's planet into pieces. They are a metaphor (comparison) for neglect and what can happen when dangerous ideas are allowed to grow.



LUNAR LANDINGS
The US is the only nation to put humans on the Moon, with 12 NASA astronauts walking on its surface from 1969 to 1972.

An Apollo 17 astronaut stands on the surface of the Moon in 1972.

The Moon is older than we thought

Scientists conducting a new study of lunar dust have determined that the Moon is about 40 million years older than previously believed. They analyzed zircon crystals in the dust, which was collected in 1972 by astronauts from NASA (the US space agency). Previous research pinned the Moon's age at about 4.425 billion years old, but the research team found that the Moon is at least 4.46 billion years old.

Scientists believe the Moon was created when a smaller planet called Theia crashed into Earth. Debris from this massive collision formed the Moon, and the intense pressure and heat generated by the crash melted rock that became the lunar surface. Once the surface cooled, the zircon crystals, which are made from a mineral, began to form.

An illustration of the crash that created the Moon

The researchers were from Northwestern University and the Field Museum in Illinois, the University of Glasgow in the UK, and other institutions. Using technology called atom-probe tomography, which did not exist in 1972, they were able to see the extent to which atoms (the smallest particles of something) in the crystals had broken down. Based on the level of decay, they could tell how old the crystals were.

The oldest crystals in the dust were 4.46 billion years old. "These crystals are the oldest known solids that formed after the giant impact," said study author Philipp Heck, director of research at the Field Museum. "And because we know how old these crystals are, they serve as an anchor for the lunar [timeline]." In other words, they knew the Moon had to be at least as old as the oldest crystals.

The team of scientists acknowledged that the debate over the Moon's age is not over. As more research is conducted and technology continues to improve, they said, older crystals will likely be discovered. That means the Moon could have formed even earlier.

"This study is a testament to immense technological progress we have made since 1972 when the last manned Moon mission returned to Earth," said Dieter Isheim, a Northwestern University researcher who was a co-author of the study.

Taking pictures on the Moon

Testing the camera

Astronauts on Earth are testing a new camera that could one day be used on the Moon. NASA's Artemis project aims to put humans back on the Moon by 2025, for the first time since 1972. To capture that mission in photographs, the Artemis imagery team, along with the European Space Agency and others, is developing the Handheld Universal Lunar Camera (HULC).

Test crews have traveled to landscapes that resemble the Moon, including a rocky region of Spain and dark, volcanic caves. The HULC is a commercially available camera that is being modified to withstand extreme conditions on the Moon, including brutally cold temperatures and lunar dust that could scratch lenses.

Listening to favorite songs relieves pain

Past studies have shown that music can reduce a person's sensitivity to pain. Now a new study from McGill University in Canada has found that listening to your favorite music can reduce physical pain even further.

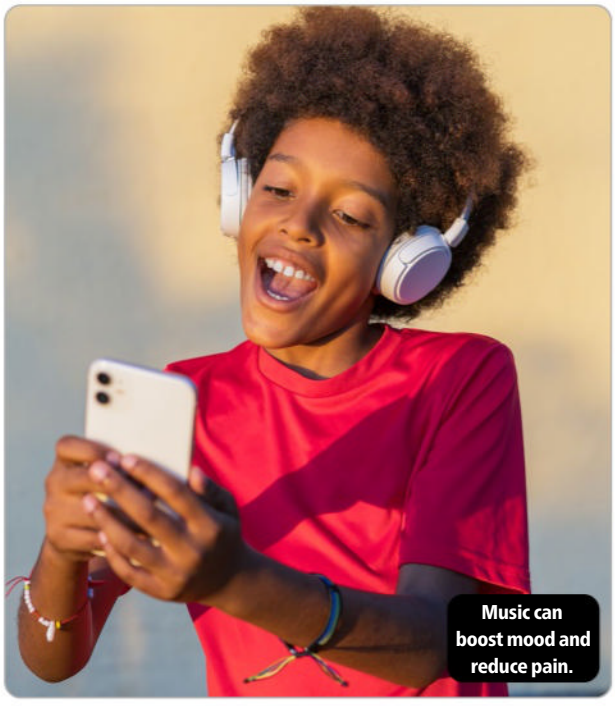
In the study, 63 people were exposed to heat that felt like a hot cup being pressed against the skin. They experienced this while listening to different samples of music for about seven minutes and reported how intense and unpleasant their pain was throughout the process.

ANCIENT MELODIES
Humans have been making music for at least 35,000 years, with the oldest known flutes made of bones from large birds.

One sample consisted of two of the participants' favorite songs, while another had music that was considered relaxing. There were also control tests with no musical accompaniment, and others where participants listened to scrambled versions of their favorite songs or relaxing music.

The study found that listening to their favorite music reduced participants' pain level about as much as medicine like Advil would. The relaxing music or scrambled songs did not produce the same effect. This led scientists to conclude that it was the specific music, not just the distracting effect of noise, that was making people feel better.

The researchers also asked participants what emotions they associated with their favorite songs. They found that the songs people associated with bittersweet or moving feelings were the most effective at reducing pain.


Music can boost mood and reduce pain.

The Aztec sculpture

Earthquake unearths ancient snakehead

A major earthquake in Mexico City last year revealed a giant sculpture of a snakehead that's more than 500 years old, the country's National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH) has announced. It was found nearly 15 feet deep, under a building at a university.

Mexico City was once part of Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire. The Aztecs worshipped many gods, including Quetzalcoatl, who was often depicted as a snake.

The sculpture is 5.9 feet long and 3.3 feet high and weighs about 1.3 tons. About 80% of its surface is covered in red, blue, black, and white paint. Although other snakeheads have been found in the area, it's extremely rare for their original colors to be preserved, the INAH said.

The artifact was removed by a crane and placed in a specially constructed chamber that controls humidity, to preserve the paint. Experts will continue to restore it.

AMAZING INVENTION

A chicken coop to translate bird talk

The Coop

Chickens cluck, chirp, and chat, and now their owners can find out what they're saying with a smart chicken coop. The Coop has an artificial intelligence program called Albert Eggstein, with sound-detection software that tracks the pattern, pitch, and volume of the birds' chatter.

The Coop's designers said that over time, the program learns to determine whether the chickens are happy, hungry, in danger, or feeling broody (wanting to sit on their eggs) based on their "cluck talk." The program sends updates to owners through an app.

GETTY IMAGES; LANCIC/UNAM; COOP: ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; DR JACOB KEGERREIS; ESA–A. ROMEO

Photos of the week

2023 BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY CAPTURING ECOLOGY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST FINALISTS

Eye spy
Viktor Nunes Peinemann shot this image of a small fish.

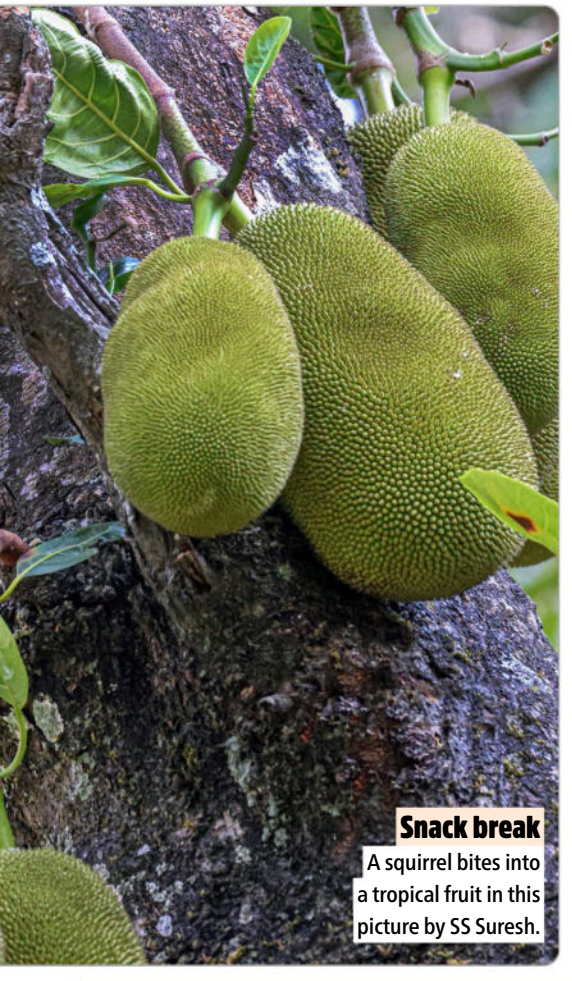
Twice as nice
This photo of two northern gannets was taken by Rebecca Nason.

REBECCA NASON; SAMANTHA SUTER; VIKTOR NUNES PEINEMANN; SAMUEL LANGLOIS-LOPEZ; DR SS SURESH A MALABAR; BRANDON GÜELL

Photos of the week

Taking a leap
This picture of seabird chicks was taken by Samuel Langlois-Lopez.

Nature's beauty
Samantha Suter captured this overhead shot of trees in autumn.



Snack break
A squirrel bites into a tropical fruit in this picture by SS Suresh.

Hanging on
Brandon Güell took this photo of treefrogs clinging to recently laid eggs.

Al Horford of the Boston Celtics (right) and Chris Boucher of the Toronto Raptors on November 17

DID YOU KNOW?
Markquis Nowell of the Toronto Raptors is 5-foot-7 and currently the shortest player in the NBA.

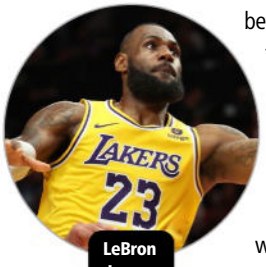
Tournament courts

For the in-season tournament, the NBA created special court designs and uniforms for each team. The courts have a team's signature color and feature a trophy in the center. The NBA wanted viewers to be able to instantly tell they were not watching a regular game.

NBA plays in-season tournament

For the first time ever, the NBA (National Basketball Association) is holding an in-season tournament for its 30 teams. The tournament, which is similar to one in the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association), was created to make the early part of the season exciting for players and fans. Players can earn cash awards based on how far their teams go.

In the tournament, which began on November 3, the Eastern and Western Conferences are split into six groups of five teams. Games are played on Tuesday and Fridays, and all but the Final count toward a team's regular season record. When *The Week Junior* went to press, there had been four nights of action and seven teams remained undefeated, including the Miami Heat, the Milwaukee Bucks, and the Sacramento Kings.



LeBron James

A tournament game on November 14 between the San Antonio Spurs and the Oklahoma City Thunder was significant because it was the first time two of the NBA's top rookies, the Spurs' Victor Wembanyama and the Thunder's Chet Holgrem, faced off this season. The Thunder won, 123–87. Neither player had great shooting nights, but Wembanyama had 14 rebounds and two blocked shots. Three nights later, the Spurs lost to the Kings, 129–120. Sacramento guard De'Aaron Fox had 43 points, eight rebounds, and seven assists in the game.

In another matchup that night, the Boston Celtics improved their tournament record to 2–0 with a 108–105 win over the Toronto Raptors. With less than 30 seconds to go and the game tied, Boston's Derrick White hit a three-pointer to give his team a lead they would not give up. Also that night, the undefeated Los Angeles Lakers claimed their third tournament win with a 107–95 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers. Lakers star LeBron James had 35 points and nine assists.

On November 24, an important tournament game will be played between two undefeated groupmates: the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Kings. Once the group stage ends on November 28, the top teams in each group plus two wild cards will advance to the quarterfinals. Those games begin on December 4.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

COLLEGE FIELD HOCKEY

On November 19, the top-ranked University of North Carolina (UNC) won the NCAA field hockey national championship. They beat second-ranked Northwestern University, 2–1, in a game that went to a double-overtime penalty shootout. It is UNC's 11th field hockey title. UNC head coach Erin Matson is a former star player for the team. She is 23 and the youngest head coach to ever win an NCAA title.

Australia's Pat Cummins

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

After losing to the Kansas City Chiefs in last season's Super Bowl, the Philadelphia Eagles won a rematch on November 20, 21–17. The Chiefs led at halftime, but the Eagles held them scoreless in the second half. They took the lead with 6:20 left in the game.

INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

In the ICC Cricket World Cup final on November 19, Australia defeated host country India to claim their sixth World Cup, the most of any country.

FUN FACT
The first modern trampoline was invented at the University of Iowa around 1934.

Nicole Ahsinger (left) and Sarah Webster

US shines at trampoline worlds

From November 9 to November 19, the 2023 Trampoline Gymnastics World Championships were held in Birmingham, England. It featured competitions in tumbling and trampoline, and it is a major qualifying event for the 2024 Summer Olympics. The US men's and women's teams won a total of 10 medals. Four of the US medals were gold, which was more than any team.

Trampoline gymnastics, which became an Olympic sport in 2000, has four event categories for men and women: individual trampoline, synchronized trampoline, double mini trampoline (DMT), and tumbling. On a trampoline, an athlete can bounce more than 30 feet high as they do somersaults and twists in the air.

The sport's top athletes competed from November 9 to November 12, and several Americans made history with their performances. Jessica Stevens won the bronze in the women's individual event, which was the first time an American had medaled in that event in 49 years.

For the first time since 1974, the US medaled in both the men's and women's synchronized events. Nicole Ahsinger and Sarah Webster won the gold and became the first US women's pair to take home a synchronized medal since 1976. On the men's side, Ruben Padilla and Aliaksei Shostak won silver in the synchronized event and became the first US men's duo to medal since 1982. Padilla also won gold in the men's individual double mini.

As a team, the US won their first-ever all-around gold medal, outlasting Portugal in a tiebreaker. Great Britain finished in third.

COACH OF THE WEEK

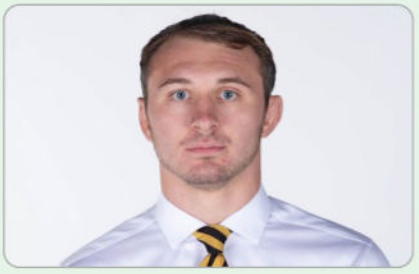
Coach's Name: **Linda Velaj**

Team: **Darien 2013 Girls Blue Team (soccer)**

"Linda has been my coach since 2021. She helped me and my team get better at 1v1's, passing, dribbling, and shooting. She helps us find the best in ourselves. She always hypes us up before a game. Do you see why we love her? She knows exactly how to motivate us to play. When she shows up to practice, she always has a smile on her face. Those are some of the reasons we love her!" Sophia, 10, Connecticut

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

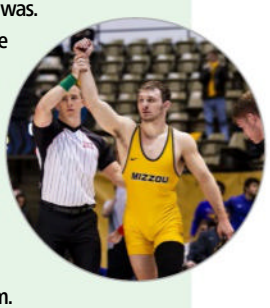


Peyton Mocco

AGE: 24 SPORT: WRESTLING
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

Hitting the mat In first grade, I brought a flier about wrestling home to my parents and said I wanted to do it. As time went on, I fell in love with the technique and all the intricacies of the sport. I also used to do gymnastics.

Class act My dad was a teacher, and he showed me how important education was. That made me want to wrestle at the college level so I could continue my education. In high school, when I was getting recruited to Missouri, I tore a ligament in my leg. I rehabbed it, won the state championship, and continued to pursue my dream.



Tough love I like how when you're out on the mat, it's just you and your opponent. You can't put the blame on anybody else. It's all on you. Wrestling is probably one of the more difficult sports out there. I love the grind.

Match mentality When I'm competing, I try to focus on my game plan. I don't want to get too excited or too nervous. Even at a big match, I continue to focus on the things that I can control rather than things that are out of my control.

Top moments Besides taking eighth in nationals last year, my biggest accomplishment is winning Big 12 championships as a team. Those mean more than individual accomplishments. I'd love to see us win a national title.

Wise words Wrestling—and competing in sports in general—creates a mental toughness that you can use in all parts of your life. It will help you grow as a person.

GETTY IMAGES; UNIV. OF MISSOURI ATHLETICS (2); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); @UTAH JAZZ/X

Models of a woolly mammoth (left) and an African elephant in *The Secret World of Elephants*

DID YOU KNOW?
Elephants have 16 major muscles in their trunks, and the ends of them work like fingers.

New exhibit on elephants

The American Museum of Natural History is taking a close look at these amazing animals and their ancestors.

At the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, a new exhibition called *The Secret World of Elephants* is now open. It covers the animals' 60-million-year evolution as well as topics such as how they communicate and how they help environments.

Elephants and their close relatives are part of an order of animals called proboscideans. They have been on the planet for 60 million years and lived on every continent except Antarctica and Australia. While there were once more than 200 species of proboscideans, most of them are extinct. Today, three kinds of elephants exist, and wild ones live only in Africa and Asia. Lauri Halderman, the museum's senior vice president for exhibition, said that since many people know the animals only through zoos or TV, movies, and books, the museum created *The Secret World of Elephants* to help visitors "understand all the wonderful adaptations of elephants and also that elephants need our help."

A display on what an elephant eats

The exhibit has interactive displays that highlight elephants' unique features and life-size models of elephants and some of their extinct relatives, including a woolly mammoth. Video projections on a model of an African elephant help visitors learn about the animal's skeleton and how its body works. In one area, people can listen to elephant calls, and in another, they can see how much food (300–500 pounds) and water (50 gallons) elephants consume in a day. There is even an area about what makes elephant dung (poop) special.

Halderman said the museum has two goals for visitors to the exhibition: "We hope people come to appreciate elephants anew and think about our role in ensuring that we have elephants going forward in time."

3 facts about elephants

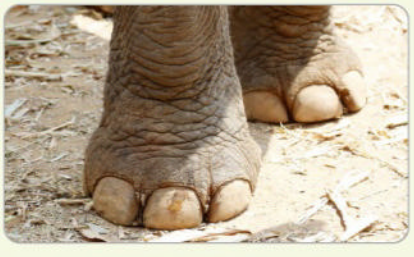
Small species

The exhibition includes life-size models of a dwarf elephant adult and calf. (The calf model is shown above.) A full-grown adult of this species was about 4 feet tall. They lived on the island of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea.

Surprising relatives

Research on cells has shown that elephants share similar traits with sea cows, such as dugong and manatees, as well as hyraxes, which are rabbit-sized mammals. They likely all share an ancestor that spent time in water.

A dugong



Communication style

Elephants send messages using infrasound, a type of low-frequency vibration. It is like a purr created in the animal's throats, and it travels to their feet and into the ground. Other elephants can feel it in their feet more than a mile away.

TOP TUNE
"When You Wish Upon a Star," from 1940's *Pinocchio*, was the first song from a Disney film to win an Academy Award.

Wish

Wish honors 100 years of Disney

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Walt Disney Company, and a new animated musical is helping to honor the milestone. *Wish*, which is now playing in theaters, is a classic Disney tale about dreams coming true.

Over the years, animated Disney films such as *Pinocchio*, *The Princess and the Frog*, and *Moana* have featured characters wishing upon a star. In *Wish*, audiences will learn the origin story of the star. The film is set in the magical kingdom of Rosas, where ruler King Magnifico takes ownership of people's wishes and decides whether to grant them. When a girl named Asha wishes on a star, it falls from the sky and helps her fight Magnifico to give the community back their hopes and dreams.

Ariana DeBose

The film was directed by Chris Buck, who made the *Frozen* films, and Fawn Veerasunthorn, who oversaw the story for *Raya and the Last Dragon*. Veerasunthorn told the website Slashfilm that the goal was for audiences to see the power of a wish and to "never forget the spark of hope you have inside you that allows you to take action toward what you want in life."

Wish's animation style helps pay tribute to Disney's legacy. Although the film was made with computer-generated imagery (CGI), the animators were inspired by the watercolor paintings used for Disney classics such as *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* and *Pinocchio*.

Wish features seven new songs, and the voice cast includes award-winning actress Ariana DeBose as Asha. She said she relates to Asha's ambition, fun-loving spirit, and willingness to learn. "Asha is a leader who doesn't know that that's what she is yet, and there are many young people like that," she told *Variety*. "I'm excited for the young people to hopefully see themselves in her."

READER RECOMMENDS

The Parent Trap *(Disney+ or rent on demand)*
"I've watched this movie a million times. It's about two girls who meet at camp and look very similar. One of them, Hallie, lives in California and only has a dad. The other, Annie, lives in England and only has a mom. After they get in trouble and are sent to the Isolation Cabin together, they figure out that they are twins. They decide to switch places so they can meet each other's parent that they don't know. Hallie goes to England as Annie, and Annie goes to California as Hallie. This movie is so good, and I recommend it for all ages." Violet, 10, California

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

The Bad Guys: A Very Bad Holiday
(Netflix)
This sequel to the film adaptation of the best-selling book series *The Bad Guys* finds Mr. Wolf and his gang on a new hilarious adventure. When Christmas is unexpectedly canceled, the Bad Guys must reignite the holiday spirit so they can pull off plans for a city-wide Christmas heist.

The Elf on the Shelf: Sweet Showdown
(Food Network) Sundays at 8 pm ET
Famous pastry chef Duff Goldman hosts this new baking competition series inspired by the popular Elf on the Shelf doll. Six teams of bakers must make elaborate creations that tell a story about the dolls as they try to win $25,000.

Genie
(Peacock)
In this new comedy, workaholic Bernard rubs an old jewelry box and releases a genie (played by funny actress Melissa McCarthy) who can grant unlimited wishes. He uses her magic to help him reconnect with his family. Along the way, he and the genie form an unlikely friendship.

DISNEY (2); GETTY IMAGES; NETFLIX; WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY; UNIVERSAL PICTURES; ON LEFT PAGE: ALVARO KEDING/AMNH (3); JOEY BARTOLOMEO; MATT SHANLEY/AMNH; GETTY IMAGES (2)

FUN FACT
The first computer-based role-playing game came out in 1974 and was based on Dungeons & Dragons.

Super Mario RPG

Remake of a classic Mario game

Super Mario RPG is a new role-playing game. It was recently released exclusively for the Nintendo Switch. The game is a remake of a hit 1996 Super Nintendo game with the same title that has been considered one of the greatest games of all time. The remake has been given a 3D makeover.

Like most games in the Super Mario franchise, Super Mario RPG takes place in the Mushroom Kingdom. The story begins when a giant sword falls from the sky, interrupting a battle between Mario and his archrival Bowser. As a result of the impact, Star Road, a famous location that has the power to grant wishes, is shattered into seven pieces. Mario and others are scattered in different directions, and when they make it back into the Mushroom Kingdom, they discover it has been overrun by the Smithy Gang. Smithy, the group's evil leader, can create dangerous tools that can walk, talk, and think.

Mario, Bowser, and Mallow

The goals of the game are to win back the Mushroom Kingdom and repair Star Road by collecting all seven fragments. To do that, Mario has to team up with Bowser as well as new characters like bouncy cloud child Mallow and mysterious doll Geno. Princess Peach is also on the team, taking her out of her castle and into the adventure.

Most Mario games are all action, but Super Mario RPG uses turn-based combat for the brave plumber's fights. The remake has some new controls that allow for cool moves and boost the power of attacks, plus a new soundtrack. Still, it's easy to understand why the game has been beloved for generations.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

SOUND DETECTIVES

Major podcast platforms

In this new fictional series, sounds go missing from the Museum of Sound. Its founder, LeVar Burton (played by the famous actor of the same name), hires Detective Hunch and his partner Audie the Ear, who begin a hunt for the Sound Swindler. The show mixes adventure, mystery, and comedy.

GAME OF THE WEEK

ULTIMATE DRAFT SOCCER

Apple App Store, Google Play

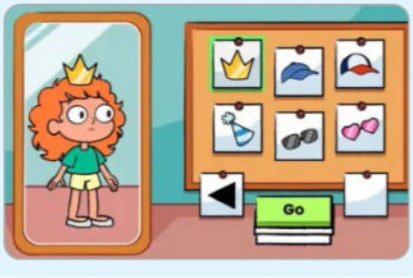
This game is similar to the Ultimate Team mode in the FIFA console games. You build a virtual team of real-life players, then send them out on the field to compete. To pass and shoot, you tap and draw lines on your screen. There are in-app purchases, but they are optional.

APP OF THE WEEK

GIVE AS WE GROW

Apple App Store, Google Play

Discover the joy of giving through this new app. In mini-games and activities, you can learn about real-life organizations, help characters, and see how your actions could pay off in the future. There is also a digital journal where you can track how you've been helpful in the app and the real world.



NINTENDO (2); STITCHER STUDIOS; FIRST TOUCH GAMES LTD.; FABLEVISION

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Project F

By Jeanne DuPrau

(Random House Books for Young Readers)

It's several hundred years in the future when the world no longer uses fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, and items like cars, smartphones, and TVs don't exist. Riding on a train to pick up his orphan cousin, Keith, age 13, makes small talk with Malcolm, who is working on a complex engineering project in a remote town. Before Keith can find out more, Malcolm falls asleep and almost misses his stop. Later, when Keith gets off the train, he realizes Malcolm took the wrong luggage. Keith looks through Malcolm's bag hoping to find an address where he can return the bag. Instead he sees diagrams for "Project F." On the way back from picking up Lulu, his cousin, they get off at Malcolm's stop and locate him. While Malcolm is grateful to have his drawings back, he refuses to provide details about what he's working on. Keith and Lulu spy on the project and get pulled into a world of adventure, danger, and secrets. This book, written by the author of the popular City of Ember series, may prompt you to think about the pros and cons of living in a simpler society with less technology.

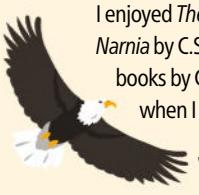
ASK THE AUTHOR

Jeanne DuPrau

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What inspired this story?
I built a house powered by solar energy, and that led me to looking into energy use in our world—where it comes from and how we use it.

What do you hope readers take away from this book?
I hope they see that it's possible to live without things we think of as essential, such as TVs and phones. You can have fun in ways that don't depend on energy.



Who were your favorite authors growing up?
I enjoyed *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis. I read books by Charles Dickens when I was a bit older.

What is difficult about writing?
Everything! How to start, what should come next—there are so many decisions to make!

Cats or dogs?
I used to be a cat person. And then I got a dog. Since then, I have been a dog person.

BOOKS: COURTESY OF PUBLISHERS; AUTHOR: CYNTHIA SUN; GETTY IMAGES

READER RECOMMENDS

Mac B., Kid Spy *By Mac Barnett*

"This is a great book series for kids. Each book has short chapters and is interesting. Mac, who is the main character, is a kid spy from California. He is really funny and loves to play video games. In each book, he gets a call from the Queen of England to send him on a mission. In one of the books, the prince tries to order pizza and accidentally calls on the spy phone. You also learn about what spies do." Tully, 9, New York

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

4 books filled with fun crafts to try

The projects in these picks could make great gifts for friends and family.

Cut & Color Crafts for Kids

By Kimberly McLeod

(Page Street Publishing)

Each chapter in this book features projects you can make with a different recycled material, such as cardboard or craft sticks. There are 35 projects in all, including ballerina puppets, paper flowers, and color-your-own bookmarks. *Ages 11 and under*

Finger Knitting Fun

By Vickie Howell

(Quarry Books)

The step-by-step photos and instructions in this book show you how to knit using your fingers, instead of with knitting needles. Once you get the hang of how to do it, you can tackle one of the book's 28 interesting projects, such as scarves, pillows, bracelets, and jump ropes. *Ages 7 and up*

Good Housekeeping: The Ultimate Kids Christmas Book

By Caroline McKenzie

(Hearst Home Kids)

Candy-cane candles, 3D paper snowflakes, and bow wreaths are a few of this book's festive projects you can make for friends and family. There are also edible crafts, like sandwich cookie penguins, and easy instructions on how to wrap gifts. *Ages 8–12*

Paperfold Wild Animals

By Megan Montague Cash

(Workman Publishing)

You don't need any supplies to make the creatures in this book. Simply remove the book's pages and fold them as instructed to make 3D animals, like a kangaroo and lion. The book also contains a list of interesting facts about each animal. For instance, a lion's roar can be heard up to five miles away. *Ages 7 and up*

DID YOU KNOW?
Elephants typically need about two hours of sleep a night, the least of any mammal.

Host a cozy sleepover

With a little planning, you can get ready for a night of fun with friends.

With the weather getting chillier, it's a perfect time of year to invite friends over for some indoor fun with a sleepover. A bonus: If your family decorates your home for the holidays, it can be a special time to host friends for the night. Here's what you need to know to get started.

Plan it out

The holiday season can be busy for families, so talk to yours about an ideal night to have friends sleep over. If a weekend won't work, you could consider having a sleepover during your school's holiday break. Ask how many guests you're allowed to have, then reach out to friends to see who is available. If some can't sleep over, ask if they'd like to stay for the earlier part of the night. With an adult's help, decide on a start time, what friends should bring (like sleeping bags and pillows), and what time their families can pick them up in the morning.

Create great memories.

Set the scene

Decide where you and your friends will hang out for the night and where you'll go to sleep. If you have the option, it can be extra special to sleep in a room with holiday lights twinkling late into the night. Or you could put out your own creative holiday or winter touches to help transform your sleepover space into a winter wonderland. For example, you could hang handmade snowflakes from the ceiling and drape paper garlands in holiday colors. You could also add flickering light with battery-operated flameless candles set out on tabletops.

Have holiday fun

If you like, you can brainstorm a theme for your winter sleepover. You could ask everyone to come dressed in their most festive pajamas, then snuggle up with blankets for a holiday movie night. Serve popcorn with holiday sprinkles mixed in, and sip on hot cocoa. Or ask an adult family member to guide you on a neighborhood walk with your group to check out the decorations. You could also consider playing a game, like winter charades, or have an indoor snowball fight with white pom-poms.

Make breakfast a blast

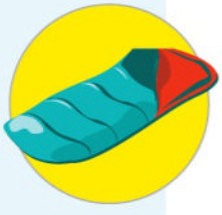
Plan to serve your guests breakfast before they head home. You can jazz up traditional pancakes with a festive touch: Pour batter into greased cookie cutters shaped like snowflakes or ornaments. Or you can arrange three circle pancakes together to create snowmen and put out decorative toppings, like powdered sugar and colorful berries. If you have leftover pizza from the night before, serve it hot or cold as another option for breakfast!

4 tips for sleeping away from home

If you're heading to a sleepover yourself, here's how to feel confident about staying over.

Start slowly
If you haven't stayed away from home before, consider a sleepover at a family member's house where you already feel comfortable.

Take comfort items
When you're packing up to go, include an item that will help you feel more at home. It could be your favorite pillow, a special blanket, a stuffed animal, or a book.



Get settled
Check out your surroundings soon after you arrive. For example, ask where you'll be sleeping and put your stuff there. Check where the closest bathroom is, too, in case you need it during the night.

Ask for help
If you feel homesick, be sure to tell your friend or a trusted adult in the home how you feel. Missing home and your family are totally normal. Telling someone, or making a quick call home, might help those feelings pass more quickly.

SWEET TREAT Traditional bread pudding—a dessert made with stale bread and custard—originated in the UK in the 11th century.

WARNING! Ask an adult's permission before using the oven.

Bake up pecan bread pudding

Ingredients

- 4 large eggs
- 2 cups heavy cream
- One 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tablespoon vanilla
- Fine salt
- 14- to 16-ounce loaf day-old brioche, cut into 2-inch cubes
- 2 cups pecan halves
- 6 tablespoons butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup packed dark brown sugar
- Parchment paper
- Vanilla ice cream (optional)

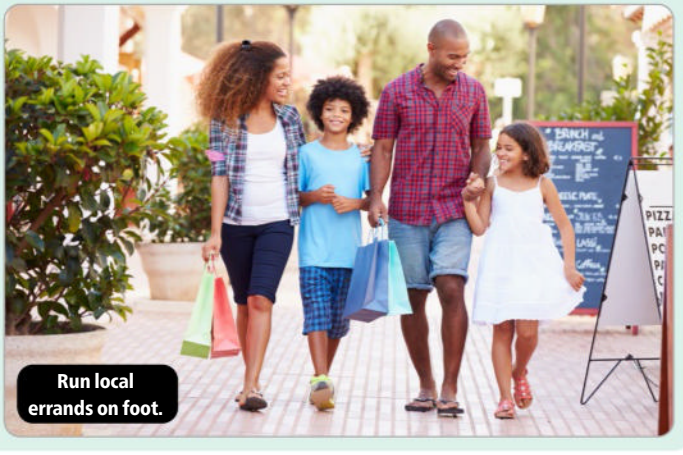
Instructions

1. In a large bowl, make a custard: Whisk the eggs, heavy cream, condensed milk, vanilla, and a big pinch of salt until well combined. Add the bread cubes and toss to coat. Set mixture aside for 30 minutes to let the bread soak up the custard, stirring occasionally.
2. Preheat the oven to 350° F. Spread pecans on a rimmed baking sheet and lightly toast in the oven, about 5 minutes. Watch the pecans carefully so they don't burn. Remove pecans from oven and let cool for 10 minutes. Chop half of the pecans and stir them into the bread pudding mixture.
3. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, use your hands to mash the softened butter and brown sugar into a paste. Mix the remaining pecan halves into the butter-sugar paste.
4. Line an 8-inch square baking dish with parchment paper, leaving an overhang on all sides. Pour the bread pudding mixture into the prepared pan. Spread the brown sugar pecan topping over the top of the bread pudding. Cover pan loosely with foil and bake 40 minutes.
5. Remove foil and continue to cook until bread pudding is set, about 30 to 40 more minutes. (Stick a knife in the center. If it comes out clean, the pudding is done.) Remove from oven and let cool at least one hour before slicing. Serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream if desired. Makes 9 servings.

ERICA CLARK FOR STONE KITCHEN CREATIVE; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK: DECREASE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT

When carbon dioxide (CO_2) is released into the atmosphere, it causes temperatures on Earth to rise. Carbon dioxide comes from burning fossil fuels, like oil and gas, to power cars and generate electricity. Your family's "carbon footprint" is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air because of the energy you use. There are simple ways you can reduce your footprint. For example, if you and your family are running errands close by, you can walk instead of drive. Eat fruits and vegetables that are grown nearby so less fuel is used to transport food from far away. You can also take shorter showers—the less hot water you use, the less energy is needed to heat the water.



Run local errands on foot.

Crisscross

Each of these types of furniture fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

3 letters
BED
COT

4 letters
DESK
SOFA

5 letters
COUCH
TABLE

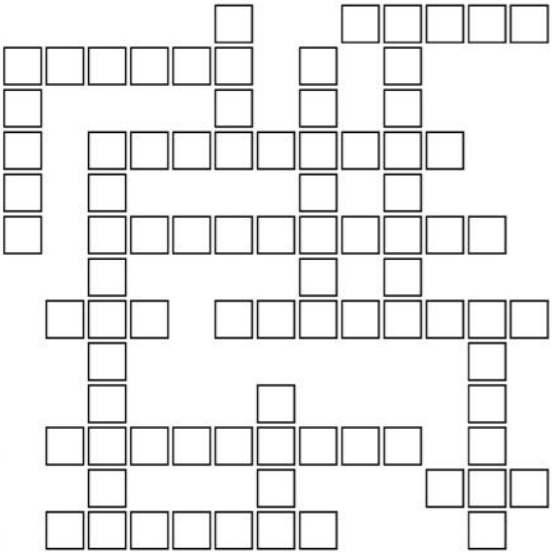
6 letters
BUFFET
CRADLE

7 letters
DRESSER
OTTOMAN

8 letters
ARMCHAIR
WARDROBE

9 letters
SECTIONAL
WORKBENCH

10 letters
NIGHTSTAND
WINDOW SEAT



Take five

Five 5-letter words associated with pizza are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five?

B	T	U	I	N
C	O	S	L	T
I	R	I	G	Y
D	N	A	S	L
O	A	U	O	H

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters L-O-G. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

1. The kind of reasoning you use to solve a sudoku puzzle — L O G ☐ ☐
2. Say you're sorry — ☐ ☐ ☐ L O G ☐ ☐ ☐
3. A series with three books or movies — ☐ ☐ ☐ L O G ☐
4. Metric weight equal to about 2.2 pounds — ☐ ☐ L O G ☐ ☐ ☐
5. Men's perfume — ☐ ☐ L O G ☐ ☐

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

		3			6
	5			2	
5		2			
			2		4
	1			6	
2			3		

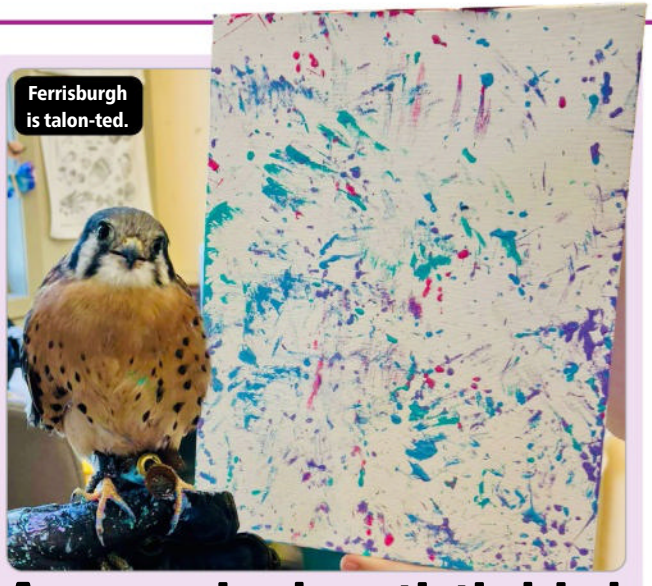
Spot the difference

These two pictures of elephants appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

All the same hint: The G is silent in word 5.

That's unbelievable!



An amazingly artistic bird

An injured bird has reinvented himself as a painter. Ferrisburgh is a kestrel, a bird of prey in the falcon family, who lives at the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. After a wing injury left him unable to fly, staff introduced Ferrisburgh to painting with his talons. He took to it like a bird to a branch and has even helped lead an art class for visitors. Now some of Ferrisburgh's paintings are being sold to support the nature center. A staff member said, "He's a little bird who thinks he's a human."

Steak dinner with a grand price

The newly opened Aragawa restaurant in the UK is offering a steak for the astonishing price of $1,117. The expensive beef comes from a special type of cow and is sent to London, England, from a small farm in Japan. The steak has to meet strict standards to make sure it is the correct color and texture. Chef Kazuo Imayosh has spent 40 years perfecting the art of cooking this special beef and says he can tell when a steak is ready just by touching it and listening to the sizzle.

A not-so-convenient store

People often run to the store for a quick trip, but that's not really possible at one shop in southern China. This store is located 394 feet above ground on a cliffside in Shiniuzhai National Geological Park. The tiny wooden shed sits along an assisted climbing route and serves refreshments to mountain climbers. Those who make the 90-minute journey up the cliff can receive a free bottle of water from the staff, who carry supplies to the shop by zip line each day. A social media user called it "the most inconvenient convenience store."

Real or fake?

Giving runners an extra kick

Adidas, the athletic footwear company, has introduced a new shoe that can motivate top runners to race even faster. The Adizero Adios Pro Evo 1 comes with a built-in timer that causes the shoe to split apart after 3 hours and 30 minutes, an ambitious marathon time. Athletes say the ticking timer and the fear of having to finish the race barefoot help them stay at top speed for all 26.2 miles of the race. One runner wore a pair in September and broke a record with her extremely quick finish. Is this story real, or have we run away with the truth?*

*Fake! The Evo 1 was not built with a timer. Adidas produced its lightest shoe ever so it won't slow runners down, but these $500 sneakers only last for one high-speed race before their super-light materials wear out.

ANNA MORRIS; GETTY IMAGES (2); HUNAN JINRIPINGJIANG/DOUYIN; ADIDAS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

Editor's note

For many years and many reasons, I was an admirer of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter before her death this week at age 96 (p3). During her time as First Lady—from 1977 to 1981, when her husband, Jimmy Carter, was the 39th President—she was a strong advocate for improving Americans' access to mental health care, among other causes. After leaving the White House, she and her husband founded the Carter Center to help resolve conflicts and eliminate diseases around the world. The couple also helped build more than 4,000 homes with Habitat for Humanity, pounding nails side by side. Rosalynn Carter deserves the thousands of tributes that have poured forth since she died. But as former First Lady Michelle Obama said, "Her life is a reminder that no matter who we are, our legacies are best measured not in awards or accolades—but in the lives we touch."

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

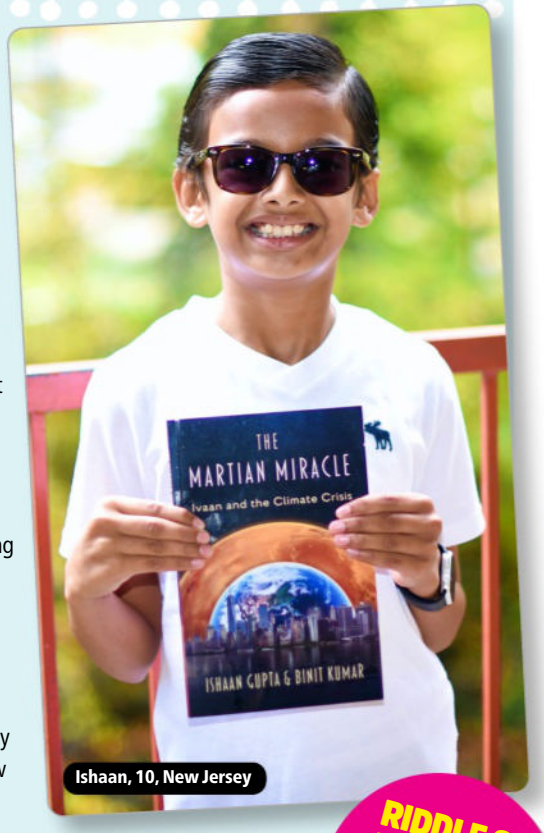
CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Dream Factory

This organization grants wishes to children who have been diagnosed with a chronic illness or disorder. It aims to make a child's dream come true, whether that is attending a live sporting event, meeting a favorite celebrity, or receiving a special gift. Founded in 1980, the group has 32 chapters across the US and is run mostly by volunteers. Find out more at dreamfactoryinc.org.

DREAM FACTORY

Writing a book to make a difference



Ishaan, 10, New Jersey

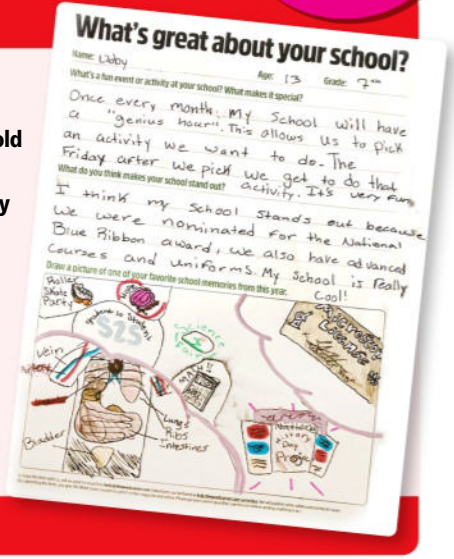
"I am a staunch supporter of environmental causes, especially the fight against global warming. I long for a greener and more eco-friendly planet. I wrote a letter to the President when I was 8 years old, urging action on this critical issue. Soon after, I received an encouraging response from him, bolstering my belief that even small individual efforts can contribute to the fight against climate change. When I turned 9, I co-authored a science fiction book titled *The Martian Miracle: Ivaan and the Climate Crisis* with my dad. The Kindle version of the book is now available globally and will soon be published in paperback."

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What do kids make a lot of that can't be seen?
Noise

Tell us about your school!

Libby, who is 13 years old and in seventh grade, told us her school is special because it holds a "genius hour," during which students get to pick an activity they want to do. She is proud that her school was nominated for the National Blue Ribbon award and offers advanced courses. If you want to share what's great about your school, go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to print out a form. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com.* We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.


What's great about your school?
Name: Libby
Age: 13
Grade: 7th
What's a fun event or activity at your school? What makes it special?
Once every month, my school will have a "genius hour." This allows us to pick an activity we want to do. The Friday after we pick, we get to do that activity. It's very fun.
What do you think makes your school stand out?
I think my school stands out because we were nominated for the National Blue Ribbon award, we also have advanced courses and uniforms. My school is really Cool!
Draw a picture of one of your favorite school memories from this year.

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"I read the article about leaf peeping in the October 13 issue and went on a nature walk to collect a lot of leaves. I loved using the leaves to make rubbings and create a leaf-peeping picture!" Stella, 10, Illinois

"I really love waiting for *The Week Junior* to come in the mail!" Micah, 9, Pennsylvania

"The cheesy veggie lasagna rollups are so good! I'm going to make them for our Thanksgiving dinner, too!" Gabby, 10, Arizona

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Hart**

School: **Hermosa Valley Middle School**

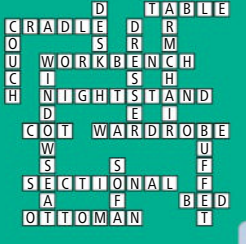
"Mr. Hart is the best teacher yet! He is a core teacher who taught social studies and ELA. I was so lucky to get two classes in a row with him. I was always so happy in that class. He was so positive and could always make me smile. He supported me during tests and hard times. He is truly the best."

Harlee, 12, California

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

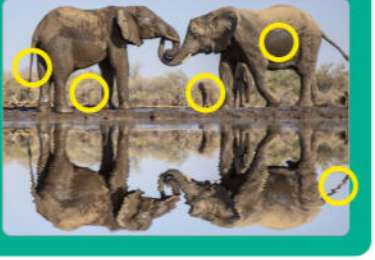
Puzzle answers (from page 26)



1	2	3	5	4	6
4	5	6	1	2	3
5	4	2	6	3	1
6	3	1	2	5	4
3	1	5	4	6	2
2	6	4	3	1	5

Take five
basil
crust
Italy
dough
onion

All the same
1. logic
2. apologize
3. trilogy
4. kilogram
5. cologne



Quiz answers (from page 30)
1 a) Albert Eggstein **2** True **3** Star Road **4** c) 1943 **5** True **6** The Rockettes **7** b) US **8** False. It is 40 million years older. **9** c) 100th **10** Wallace's flying frog **11** b) SZA **12** True **13** New York City **14** False. It is set several hundred years in the future. **15** b) Painting

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What is the name of the program that tells people what their chickens are saying?

a) Albert Eggstein b) Thomas Eggison

c) Sir Isaac Eggton

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

2 True or false? Thanksgiving dinners are projected to cost less this year than in 2022.

True ☐ False ☐

3 In the video game Super Mario RPG, what is the name of the famous location that grants wishes?

4 In what year was the classic children's book *The Little Prince* first published?

a) 1903 b) 1923 c) 1943

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 True or false? There are 18 known living species of penguins.

True ☐ False ☐

6 Jennifer Jones was the first Black dancer to join what renowned dance company?

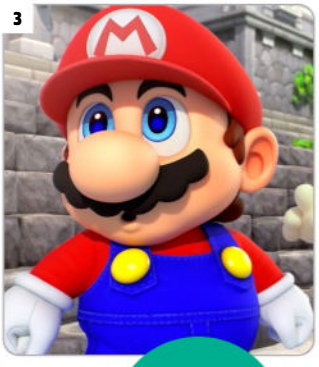
7 Which team won the all-around competition at the 2023 Trampoline Gymnastics World Championships?

a) Great Britain b) US c) Portugal

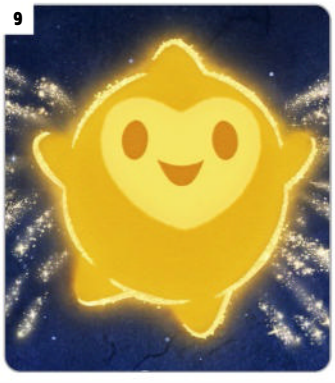
a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

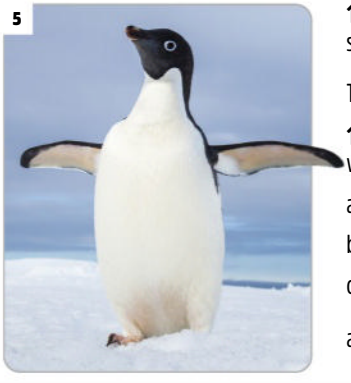
8 True or false? Scientists recently said the Moon is 14 million years older than previously believed.

True ☐ False ☐



ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.





9 The new movie *Wish* honors what anniversary for the Walt Disney Company?

a) 50th b) 75th c) 100th

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

10 What is the species of frog that evolved to look like poop in order to repel predators?

11 Which musician received the most nominations for a 2024 Grammy award?

a) Phoebe Bridgers

b) SZA

c) Taylor Swift

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

12 True or false? On average, there is less space between rows of airplane seats now than in the early 2000s.

True ☐ False ☐

13 *The Secret World of Elephants* is a new exhibit at a natural history museum in which US city?

14 True or false? The book *Project F* is set several hundred years in the past.

True ☐ False ☐

15 A kestrel named Ferrisburgh took up what artistic hobby after a wing injury?

a) Drawing

b) Painting

c) Woodworking

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

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